(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the UGC, the enrolment of students increased from 19.6% in 1990-91 to 19.9% in 2000-2002 in Science courses being imparted through the formal system of Higher Education in the country.

(c) and (d) Making Science education more attractive & purposeful is a continuous process. The Government has made efforts beginning from the school stage itself to make science courses interesting by making financial provisions for school laboratories, science libraries, training of Science & Mathematics Teachers, for participation in Science Olympiads. NGOs have also been funded for this purpose. The UGC provides support to recognized Science Departments of Universities as Centre for Advance Studies (CAS) to encourage pursuit of excellence under the programme of special assistance. Courses at Master/Bachelor level or special papers undertaken in universities and colleges are supported under the Innovative Programmes and New Emerging Areas. A scheme for strengthening infrastructure for Science and Technology is also in operation since 1983.

Children affected by HIV/AIDS

3272. SHRIMATI S G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring out a scheme to protect, care and support children affected by HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to join hands with U N. agencies to take care of the orphans and vulnerable children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Aids Control Organization is providing services to children affected by HIV/AIDS under National Aids Control Programme, which includes preventive measures to reduce transmission of HIV from the infected mother to her

newborn baby and also to provide comprehensive intervention package for antenatal care, group education, pre and post testing counselling, motivation for institutional delivery, administration of Neverapine drug to mother during early labour and to baby within 72 hours of birth etc.

(c) and (d) UNICEF has been implementing its country programme in India for children in various areas which include, among others, projects for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Education Cess

†3273. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two per cent of cess for education was levied on direct and indirect taxes by Government with effect from the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the amount collected in this head till December, 2004;

(c) whether a sum out of the said amount was allocated to a few States for human resource development; and

(d) if so, the names of such States and amount allocated to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (d) Education Cess has been imposed to fulfil the commitment of the Government to provide and finance universalised quality basic education to children in the 6-14 years age group. The revised estimate for 2004-05 for receipts on account of Education Cess is Rs. 5010 crore as reflected in the Receipts Budget 2005-06 of the Ministry of Finance.

After imposition of Education Cess through the Finance (No.2) Act, 2004 additional allocations of Rs. 2000 crore and Rs.1232 crore have been provided for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Schemes respectively through first Supplementary Estimates 2004-05. Statements showing the grants released to various States under SSA and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.